

Part 4, Paper 176, Tuesday Eve...nt Olivet, Midwayer Commission

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Jesus's prophecy, destruction of Jerusalem, Second Coming, historical context, geopolitical reality, early Christians, message of hope, disciples' mission, parable of talents, divine beings, Second Coming timing, living intentionally, compassion and service, active participation, creating future

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

- S** Sarah 00:00
All right, let's try and picture this, okay, Tuesday evening, the sun setting over Jerusalem, that golden light hitting the temple, and you're there with Jesus and his disciples. It's their last week together. You can just feel this sense of like urgency, you know? And Jesus uses this moment to share a prophecy, but it's not just any prophecy. It's a big one. He talks about the destruction of Jerusalem, and he talks about his own return. Wow, yeah. Like, whoa.
- J** John 00:25
Heavy stuff.
- S** Sarah 00:27
It's a lot to unpack, because on the one hand, you've got this impending doom, right? This, like the world as you know it is gonna be completely overturned, but then on the other hand, you have this incredible promise of a comeback, this promise of hope. So it's like this weird mix of emotions probably going
- J** John 00:41
on, I can only imagine. Yeah, so
- S** Sarah 00:44
today. we're taking a deep dive into this prophecy. and we're gonna be looking at how it's

described in the Urantia Book. Because, I mean, it really, it goes deep. It does. It does. So no way to sugarcoat it. Jesus leaves it out there. He tells his disciples that Jerusalem, which is, you know, a city full of history, faith, so much happening there, is going to be totally destroyed. And, I mean, we're talking like not one stone left on top of another. It's

J John 01:12

interesting too to think about that prophecy, yeah? Because it wasn't just about, like some spiritual thing. It's like, you can't forget the historical context. Yeah. I mean, the tension between the Jews and the Romans at that time was, like, ridiculously high. Oh, for sure. And the Zealots they were ready to fight, ready for a rebellion, was a really volatile situation. So Jesus's warning, it wasn't just about, like some kind of divine judgment or whatever. It was rooted in what was actually happening at the time. You know, it was connected to this very real, very intense geopolitical reality

S Sarah 01:43

totally. And it's so easy to forget that, like we read it now, and we think, Oh, prophecy, but this was rooted in very real stuff that was happening at the time. Yeah. And sure enough, a few decades later, in 70 ad the Romans, they lay siege to Jerusalem and the destruction. I mean, it was just massive, absolutely devastating. Yeah, it's hard to even imagine. But you know what I think is really interesting, it's that Jesus, He doesn't just like, drop this bombshell and then walk away, right? Like he gives his disciples a plan. He's like, look when you see this stuff starting to go down, when you see these armies coming, you get out, get out of the city. Head for the hills, and guess what? That's exactly what the early Christians did. Wow, really? Yeah, they fled to Pella, it's across the Jordan River, and they actually managed to escape all that chaos. That's amazing, right? I just think that's like, it's such an important detail, because it really shows his compassion, you know, his concern for his followers. He's not just delivering this message and that's it. He's looking out for them. Absolutely.

J John 02:44

He's like, I'm giving you this information for a reason. Exactly. You can do something about it, right,

S Sarah 02:49

right? It's not theoretical. But there's this other part to it too, and this is what I think is super fascinating, because even though they had these warnings, right, many people, they just couldn't separate the destruction of Jerusalem from all these ideas they had about the

J John 03:05

Messiah, right? Because they thought he was going to be like a warrior king, exactly.

S

Sarah 03:09

They were so focused on this image of a powerful, you know, King who's going to come in and restore Israel and all this that they like, held onto that narrative, even as everything was literally falling apart around them, like they couldn't

J

John 03:23

see past their expectations, it's so human, right? Totally. We do it all the time. We get these ideas in our head, and even when, like, everything's pointing to something else, some other reality, we're still like, no, no, no, this is how it's gonna be.

S

Sarah 03:36

Like, my mind's made up. Don't confuse me with the facts. Yeah, exactly

J

John 03:39

which kind of brings us to the second part of this whole prophecy thing, right? The whole, like, Jesus is coming back part,

S

Sarah 03:46

right? Because it's not all, like, fire and brimstone, yeah, it's almost like he's saying, okay, yeah, things are gonna be rough for a bit there. But like, don't worry. Yeah, I gotcha. I'm coming back

J

John 03:56

exactly like, what a powerful I mean, talk about a message of hope, right? Absolutely, especially given what they were about to go through in that moment. Yeah. I mean, could you imagine, like, being one of those disciples? Yeah, your whole world is about to be, like, flipped upside down, yeah, yeah. And you hear that, that

S

Sarah 04:14

promise, yeah, yeah, no. I mean, I can see why they, like, clung to those words. Oh, absolutely. Generations after them too, for

J

John 04:21

sure, but it's that, like, it's that weaving together of the destruction and the return, right?



Sarah 04:26

Makes it so, like, interesting and complicated at the same time, totally,



John 04:30

yeah, yeah, yeah, because you can't have one without the other, exactly like



Sarah 04:33

the fall of Jerusalem and the second coming, they became, like, so intertwined, yeah, that it's almost like you couldn't even discuss them separately, right? And it's interesting how these ideas that just keep popping up, you know, throughout history,



04:45

oh yeah, I think about, How



Sarah 04:46

many times have you heard about, like, you know, the end of the world, the apocalypse? Oh



John 04:51

yeah, it's like a Tuesday, right? It's



Sarah 04:53

this recurring theme, right? Yeah. And so often those predictions are tied to. Like, specific interpretations of prophecy, right, right?



John 05:03

Like we were talking about with the destruction of Jerusalem, exactly. But like, they don't always pan out, do they? No, no, not always. Sometimes it's a big Swain of Miss, yeah, for sure. And sometimes they can even lead to, like, fear and misunderstanding, Oh, absolutely. Which is why I think it's so important to look at these prophecies through different lenses. Yeah. Try to consider what the deeper meaning is, yeah, beyond the surface level,



Sarah 05:26

yeah, yeah. Get a little nuance in there, exactly. And speaking of nuance, I actually found something really interesting in the Urantia Book, oh yeah, that I wanted to bring up. So it kind of hints that the Gospel of Matthew, where this prophecy is also talked about, right? Might have been like shaped by people who came later. Oh, interesting, like later interpretations and writings, you know, as they were trying to make sense of what happened.

 John 05:51

So it was like playing telephone with history, right? Yes, the message changes just a little bit. It's like a game

 Sarah 05:58

of historical telephone, and each time you tell it, it changes just a little bit. Yeah,

 06:03

it gets warped a little,

 Sarah 06:04

yeah, which is why, I mean, it just shows how important it is to, like, go back to the source material as much as you can, 100% and try to figure out, like, what was actually being said was the original message? Yeah, what were they actually trying to get across totally so I think, like, let's cut through all the noise. Let's get to the heart of it, even if we don't know exactly when or how Jesus is coming back, right? There's this really clear message about how his followers should be living in the now, right? Now, like in this

 John 06:35

moment, right? Yeah. Like, how should we be living our lives today? Yes, exactly. And that message, I think, is so beautifully illustrated in that parable of the talents. Remember that?

 Sarah 06:46

Oh, the parable of the talents? Yeah, it's a classic. Oh, for a reason, like it's so simple, it's

 John 06:51

so simple, but it's so powerful, but it's so powerful. It really is. Just as a quick reminder for everyone, it's a story about a Master who gives his servants different amounts of money, right or talent before he goes on a trip, and then when he comes back, he judges them, yeah, not on

how much money they make, right, but how they used what he gave them.

S

Sarah 07:12

It's about like, did you use it? Did you do something with Exactly, exactly? And it's important to remember, like this parable, it's not just about money. No, no,

J

John 07:22

no, right?

S

Sarah 07:23

It's about anything you've been given in life. Yes, your time, your actual skills, your passions, the resources you have available resources, anything, your talents. Yeah, your talents, exactly.

J

John 07:34

It's about how we use those gifts, right? Yes, how we invest them in the world around

S

Sarah 07:39

us. And that is such a good point, I think, especially thinking about it within the context of this whole prophecy, right? It's like Jesus is saying, Yeah, okay, like, big things, they might be coming, yeah? But, like, don't lose sight of what you can do right now, this very minute, yeah, don't just be sitting around like, twiddling your thumbs, waiting for this thing to happen, right? Like, take what you've been given and, like,

J

John 08:05

do something with it. Make something of it. Make something of it. Exactly the voices. And I think what's so fascinating is how this parable, like, directly connects back to the disciples mission, right? Totally. Like they were literally given these teachings of Jesus, yeah. Like, this was the good stuff, yeah, this was the essence of it, yeah. And their job wasn't to, like, keep it in a box somewhere, right, guarded, you know, right?

S

Sarah 08:29

Or, like, put it up on a shelf and be like, nobody touched this. Like, this

J

John 08:33

is the original. We can't change a thing, right? No, they were supposed to use it, yeah, share it. Let it evolve, yeah. Like, get

S

Sarah 08:41

it out there. Get

⦿

08:42

it out there.

S

Sarah 08:42

Let it do its thing exactly. Be active participants in it.

J

John 08:46

100% don't be a bystander, yeah, you know, get in the game.

S

Sarah 08:50

Yeah, get your hands dirty, exactly.

J

John 08:53

And that's such a powerful message for all of us, right? Yeah.

S

Sarah 08:56

But before we get too far down that road, okay, let's circle back to the Second Coming thing. Okay? Because according to the Urantia Book, we straight up, don't know when or how it's gonna happen.

J

John 09:07

Straight up, we don't know, and that's kind of a big deal, isn't it? It is.

S

Sarah 09:12

It's huge. Because if we're so busy trying to figure out exactly when this is gonna happen, like down to the minute, you know, right

down to the minute, you know, right,



John 09:19

setting our watches by it, yeah,



Sarah 09:22

we missed the whole point of everything else. He was saying 100%



John 09:26

it's like, okay, so you know when the train's coming, so what exactly are you just gonna sit there on the platform? Yeah, and not even, like, Look at the scenery. It's like



Sarah 09:33

those people who just sleep through, like, the entire plane ride, yes,



John 09:37

exactly you're missing the whole point of the journey, right?



Sarah 09:40

It's about the journey, not the destination. And there's this really interesting point in the Urantia Book that I just I gotta bring it up, okay? Because it says that even though we don't know the when or the how of the Second Coming, it says that our planet, Urantia, holds a very special scene. Significance? Oh, for sure. And in fact, there's this one line I wanted to read. It says, Urantia will eternally be one of the seven nativity spheres of Michael. Okay, that's pretty intense, right? So bear with me, because I know this sounds kind of out there, but basically, what it's saying is that Earth is one of only seven planets where these specific types of divine beings like Michael choose to be born and like, experience life as we know it, which I don't know, I just, I think that's wild. It makes me think, like, maybe, just maybe, the Second Coming. It's not this one time event, right? You know, this big, like, kaboom, Jesus is back, yeah. Maybe it's way bigger than that. Maybe it's something that unfolds over time in ways that we might not even recognize. Absolutely, it's a process. Yes, exactly. It's like, this ongoing thing. And so maybe, instead of asking when he's coming back, maybe the question is like, how can we, like, embody his teachings now, right



John 10:59

here, right now, what can we do today, tomorrow, to, like, actually live that message, the message of love, compassion, service, all of that

message of love, compassion, service, all of that

S Sarah 11:09
totally because it's not about waiting for something to happen to us exactly. It's about what we're doing. It's about, like, actively creating it. Yes,

J John 11:18
we're not passive bystanders. We're participants. We're

S Sarah 11:21
in it, we're creating it. Which makes you think about that parable of the talents in a whole new way, right? Oh, yeah, because it's not just about what you do with what you've been given, right? But it's also like how you're living your life every day.

J John 11:34
Yeah, are you investing your time and energy and things that actually matter exactly?

S Sarah 11:38
Are you just going through the motions, or

J John 11:41
are you really like living with intention?

S Sarah 11:43
Yes, intention is everything. It really is.

J John 11:46
So as we wrap up this deep dive, I think that's what I want to leave everyone with. It's not about predicting the future, right? No, we're

S Sarah 11:52
not fortune tellers, but



John 11:54

it's about creating. It like actively creating a present and a future that reflects all of those things that Jesus like, embodied compassion, service and, of course, love, love,



Sarah 12:06

the most important thing, the big one always absolutely



John 12:09

so to everyone listening, what talent are you being called to invest in right now? Yes,



Sarah 12:14

what small act of love or kindness or even just like service, you know, yeah, what can you offer the world today?



John 12:23

Just so until next time, keep asking those questions, keep exploring and keep diving deep.